

### REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

At the outset, Applicants and the undersigned express their appreciation to Examiner Al Aubaidi and Supervisory Patent Examiner Matar for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of December 1, 2003.

#### Information Disclosure Statement

As discussed during the telephonic interview, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the form PTO-1449 that was filed by the Applicants and considered by the Examiner. The Examiner's initials appear next to the cited U.S. Patent Documents but do not appear next to the document "BellSouth CrisisLink Service" that is cited in the Other Documents section of the form. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to initial the entry if the Examiner has considered the cited document.

#### Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,259,026 to Johnson ("Johnson"). Claims 2-3, 9-10, 16-17 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as follows.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, as discussed in the telephonic interview, to claim, in part, that "a redirection service that is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number and automatically directs the

communication away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party, to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is inoperative.” Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification and claims as filed. *See, e.g.*, Specification at ¶¶ 20 and 28. Applicants submit that Johnson does not teach, among other things, such a redirection service.

Johnson discloses a method for updating a speed calling database in a telecommunications network. In the method, after the speed calling database is updated with an updated directory number for a called party, an intelligent peripheral (IP) plays an announcement to the calling party advising the calling party that the called party’s number has changed and has been updated in the speed calling database. *See* Johnson, col. 7, lines 42-59. The IP then asks the calling party if the calling party wishes to place a call to the updated number. *See id.* If the calling party answers in the affirmative, the switch that received the answer forwards the answer to a service control point (SCP). *See id.* The SCP retrieves the updated number of the called party from the speed calling database and forwards the number to the switch with call routing instructions. *See id.*


Thus, the method disclosed in Johnson requires that the calling party intervene to cause the telecommunications network to redirect the call to the updated telephone number. In contrast, in independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, the communication to the called party is “automatically direct[ed] ... away from the directory number, without intervention by a calling party.” Thus, no intervention by the calling party is necessary, as in Johnson, to redirect the call.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, and dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21 and 23-28, which depend therefrom, respectively, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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